

Program Notice FGIS-PN-96-10 12/23/96

SUBSAMPLE CHECKS AND ONLINE ODOR ANALYSIS

1. PURPOSE

This notice transmits a change to the inspection procedures under the CuSum inspection procedures regarding subsample checks. Specifically, this notice deletes the requirement for subsample checks as part of the CuSum procedures and clarifies that odor checks made during the component analysis are considered final determinations based on an inspector's analysis.

2. BACKGROUND

Subsample checks for shiplot grain was implemented as a service to the grain industry in order to prevent the loading of sour or musty grain to ships and the costly discharge of this grain from the vessel. Since implementing the subsample checks, many export elevators now utilize shipping bins making subsample checks obsolete. The Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) has determined that subsample checks are no longer needed as a required service. Consequently, FGIS is discontinuing subsample checks for grain inspected under the CuSum procedures and those quality conditions inspected on the subsample basis are now checked on the component sample basis. FGIS recognizes some exporters, based on the configuration of their loading facility, may want to continue subsample checks to prevent the loading of inferior quality grain. Therefore, FGIS will continue to provide this service on a request basis.

The export grain industry has also alerted FGIS regarding a double jeopardy situation arising from local procedures used to determine odor online when loading ships. In order to promote uniform inspection procedures and to provide useful and meaningful information to the loading elevator, FGIS is clarifying the procedures for determining odor online. When odor determinations are made online, information regarding the odor condition is considered a final determination. Therefore, when the loading elevator is informed that the odor is okay during the loading of the subplot, the subplot sample is okay for odor. This procedure is similar to the procedure used for the determination of insects online.

3. PROCEDURES

- a. Subsample Checks. Discontinue the subsample checks for shiplot grain. Those quality conditions which were checked on a subsample basis are now checked on the component sample basis. Upon request, official personnel may check subsamples for condition as an additional service to the exporter.
- b. Odor Determinations. When checking odor online for shiplot grain, odor determinations made on a component sample basis are considered final determinations. These determinations are made by qualified inspectors and the information is provided to the loading elevator. Further, it is the responsibility of inspection personnel to prevent the combination of grain samples having sour, musty, and commercially objectionable foreign odors with grain having okay odor.

4. QUESTIONS

Please direct any questions regarding this procedural change to the Standards and Procedures Branch at 202-720-0252.



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